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Spy Suspect Says He Stole Papers to Aid China Ties

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ALEXANDRIA, Va., Feb. 6 — Larry Wu-Tai Chin, a retired Central Intelligence Agency analyst, said today that he stole classified documents from the agency for more than a decade and provided them to the Chinese in a personal campaign to improve relations between Peking and Washington.

The defense and prosecution in Mr. Chin's espionage trial both rested their cases today, and the jury of nine women and three men is scheduled to receive the case Friday.

In an extraordinary hour-and-a-half of testimony, Mr. Chin admitted nearly every action he was accused of in his indictment on espionage and tax charges. But he said his intent was to help both the United States and China.

With his wife and children looking on from front-row seats, Mr. Chin sat in the witness box with his hands folded. Speaking in a clear voice touched with the accents and rhythms of his native China, Mr. Chin said he had provided the documents to the highest levels of the Chinese political leadership.

Seeking to put his actions in the context of the turbulent postwar history of China, Mr. Chin said he had believed that the Chinese factions favoring warmer relations with the United States would be convinced of Washington's sincerity only if United States overtures were supported by Government documents.

Mr. Chin said that he had established a link with a Chinese intelligence officer named Ou Qiming in the 1960's. But he said he did not use the clandestine procedures suggested by Mr. Ou until 1970, when he came across a secret document in which President Nixon signaled to Congress his intent to seek warmer relations with the Chinese.

He said he believed that "if this infor-

mation was brought to the attention of the highest Chinese leadership, it might break the ice and start the turn from hostility to friendship."

Under questioning by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph Aronica, Mr. Chin admitted that he had lied to the C.I.A., the Internal Revenue Service and his co-workers.

"I did lie when I signed the secrecy agreements," with the C.I.A., he said, "because that was my mission."

"You wanted to advance your mission and you wanted to advance your pocket," Mr. Aronica responded.

"That was a by-product," Mr. Chin said. The money he received from the Chinese, \$150,000 according to prosecutors, "was far less than I earned from F.B.I.S." That was a reference to the C.I.A.'s Foreign Broadcast Informa-

tion Service, which translates radio broadcasts and newspapers for the C.I.A. and for which Mr. Chin worked for 11 years, from 1970 until he retired in 1981.

Admits Stealing Documents

"You were stealing documents from the C.I.A. and giving them to China?" asked Mr. Aronica.

"That's right," Mr. Chin replied.

He denied several of the Government's accusations. He said that he did not give China secret information on his work assisting with interrogation of Chinese prisoners in the Korean War. And he said he never suggested methods to the Chinese for recruiting a fellow employee as an agent.

In response to questions from Mr. Aronica, who was trying to establish a primary element of the espionage statute — that Mr. Chin intended to harm the United States or help a foreign power — Mr. Chin said repeatedly that his activities were aimed at helping both the United States and China.

In 1974 or 1975, when China's leaders were highly suspicious of Western motives, Mr. Chin said, his supervisor suggested that it might improve relations with China if the Chinese successfully planted a double agent inside the C.I.A.

Mr. Chin said that the supervisor, Cyril Braegelmann, was responding to newspaper speculation that the Chinese did have such a double agent. "He said, 'That is impossible, but I wish they did.'" By his own account, Mr. Chin had been acting as a double agent since 1970.

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